

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 090313

15

ORIGIN NEA-02

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EA-02 /005 R

66665

DRAFTED BY: NEA: INS: ARKAY

APPROVED BY: NEA: INS: DKUX

EA: IMS: WBGRANT

----- 086080

R 161715 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION TOKYO, SINGAPORE MAY 11, 1973 FROM
SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A.

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SN

SUBJ: LEE KUAN YEW PROPOSAL FOR JOINT TASK FORCE FOR
INDIAN OCEAN AND WESTERN PACIFIC

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AP DESPATCH DATELINE TOKYO MAY 11:

QUOTE: PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW OF SINGAPORE PROPOSED
TODAY THAT THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA AND ASIAN
NATIONS FORM A JOINT AIR AND NAVAL TASK FORCE TO KEEP THE
INDIAN OCEAN AND THE WESTERN PACIFIC OPEN TO THE COMMERCE
OF ALL COUNTRIES.

HE SAID THE FORCE COULD BE EXPANDED LATER TO INCLUDE WEST
EUROPEAN ELEMENTS.

LEE TOLD NEWSMEN SUCH A FORCE WOULD BALANCE GROWING SOVIET
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PAGE 02 STATE 090313

NAVAL POWER IN THE PACIFIC AND IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

HE WOULD NOT SAY WHETHER HE HAD DISCUSSED HIS PROPOSAL WITH
PRIME MINISTER KAKUE TANAKA OF JAPAN OR WITH AMERICAN
LEADERS.

LEENOTED THAT CHINA HAS EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA OF
NEUTRALIZING ASIA BUT THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET
UNION HAVE YET TO MAKE THEIR POSITIONS KNOWN. END QUOTE.

2. REQUEST EMBASSY TOKYO PROVIDE FULL TEXT LEE'S REMARKS
TO NEWSMEN ON THIS SUBJECT, IF AVAILABLE, AND CONTEXT IN
WHICH HE MADE THEM.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY SINGAPORE COMMENTS. RGRS UNQUOTE RUSH

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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